## THIS IS NEW HAMPSHIRE

Episode 1.01 - Don't Panic

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OPENING SCENE

FADE IN

INT. UNIVERSITY DORM ROOM - DAY

We see a standard dorm room consisting various items such as posters on the walls, textbooks on the desk and the norm until we see ZACH HIGHLANDER (21, Short brown hair, average build) soundly sleeping.

He eventually - and slowly - rises out of his bed before he turns to his clock on the table near him. The time reads, "11:32".

ZACH:

Oh shit.

He holds up the clock.

ZACH:

SHIT!

He tosses the clock aside, and just darts out of bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - DAY

We see several different students walking and talking as Zach (now dressed) is just RACING throughout the campus grounds.

He runs and leaps over a stool, before he accidentally runs directly through a couple making out.

GIRL:

Hey!

ZACH: (O.S.)

Sorry!

CUT TO:

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

The entire hall is just full of students taking tests. Suddenly the door swings open and SLAMS against the inside wall as Zach arrives, promptly out of breath.

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS MOORE (early 40's, bald and wearing glasses) is looking at him, and is not impressed.

CONTINUED: 2.

PROF. MOORE:

Why isn't it surprising that you are late once again, Mr. Highlander?

ZACH:

I have a good reason this time! Honest!

The professor just stares at him - as does everybody else doing the test - whilst Zach is still holding the same pose he had when he previously talked.

ZACH:

Oh sorry, I thought you were going to cut me off just then.

PROF. MORRE:

(irritated)

Mr. Highlander can you please just get straight to the point.

ZACH:

I slept in.

Professor Moore sighs and hands him a test paper.

PROF. MOORE:

Just sit down and try your absolute best to complete the examination in the time you have left.

Zach smiles weakly as he grabs the paper and takes a seat. He sits down and takes a while to get comfortable in his chair, fiddling round in it, much to the chagrin of the students seated next to him.

He finally gets comfy, cracking his knuckles, then his back, before finally taking out a pen and beginning to write before...

PROF.MOORE:

Time is up! Pens down!

All of the students place their pens down immediately, except for Zach who is just in shock.

ZACH:

Wait what!?

PROF. MOORE:

The examination has ended Mr. Highlander.

CONTINUED: 3.

ZACH:

But...you said I had time!

PROF. MOORE:

I said you should try your best with the time you had.

ZACH:

That was like 30 seconds! I demand more time!

PROF. MOORE:

You can't just demand more time, however if you would like to discuss this later Mr. Highlander, we can do so in my office.

ZACH:

Great!

PROF. MOORE:

Alright.

ZACH:

Sounds good!

PROF. MOORE:

I'll see you after this.

ZACH:

Fine!

PROF. MOORE:

Please stop talking Mr. Highlander.

ZACH:

Okay.

SMASH CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS

The song, "Rearviewmirror" by Pearl Jam plays during the opening credits.

END CREDITS.

FADE IN

INT. PROFESSOR MOORE'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON.

We see Zach Highlander seated in the office playing with a little bobblehead, continuously flicking it.

CONTINUED: 4.

PROF. MOORE:

Stop that.

Moore just snatches the bobblehead out of Zach's reach. Zach frowns a little.

PROF. MOORE:

Okay, let's cut to the chase shall we Mr. Highlander? You were fully aware that the final examination for Economics 402 commenced at 10AM this morning.

ZACH:

Well yeah I was bu--

PROF. MOORE:

(interrupting)

Yet you turned up late, caused a.. I don't know some kind of "palooza" in my lecture hall..

ZACH:

Pfft...palooza.

PROF. MOORE:

(interrupting)

DURING AN EXAMINATION! Now you could have applied for a deferral, but those were due weeks ago, and considering the fact that this final exam was worth 60%...

ZACH:

Woah that much?

PROF. MOORE:

(interrupting)

I REGRET TO INFORM YOU, that you have failed Economics 402.

A combination of shock, anger and disbelief settles in for Zach.

ZACH:

I failed the subject?

PROF. MOORE:

Yes you have.

ZACH:

So...what now?

CONTINUED: 5.

PROF. MOORE:

Well considering you are currently in your final year of your degree, and considering the fact that Economics 402 is only offered in first semester, you'll need to come back here next year to repeat the subject.

ZACH:

So your asking me to return back for six more months of university, just to repeat one subject?

PROF. MOORE:

Yes.

ZACH:

Are you kidding me!? I can't waste six months of my life repeating Economics!

PROF. MOORE:

Well you have too I'm afraid, there's no other option.

ZACH:

I am not!

PROF. MOORE:

Well if you want your degree, you have to!

ZACH:

I am not staying here for another fucking semester!

PROF. MOORE:

Young man, you will watch your language in front of me!

Zach stands up looking very angry.

ZACH:

Oh yeah!? What the fuck are you going to do huh? Go home, prepare a microwave dinner, and watch CSI before you cry to sleep!?

PROF. MOORE:

YOUNG MAN, YOU DO REALISE I AM ALSO THE VICE DEAN OF THIS UNIVERSITY!? I CAN ACADEMICALLY EXPEL YOU FROM THESE PREMISES!

CONTINUED: 6.

ZACH:

THEN DO IT! COME ON DO IT! FUCKING DO IT!

PROF. MOORE:

FINE! ZACHARY HIGHLANDER! I HEREBY EXPEL YOU FROM NORTH FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY!

The song, "Back For More" by Five Finger Death Punch begins to play.

ZACH:

GREAT! I'M OUT OF THIS FUCKING DUMP!

The song builds up with the drums coming in as Zach storms out of the office. The song suddenly drops out quickly as Zach quickly goes back into the office.

ZACH:

Listen I am so incredibly sorry about that. You mind if we start over or...

PROF. MOORE:

GET OUT!!!

The song quickly plays again as Zach runs out of the office.

CUT TO:

INT. UNIVERSITY DORM ROOM - AFTERNOON

The song fades out as we see Zach frantically shoving as much as he can into his bags. We hear him muttering under his breath whilst his phone suddenly rings. He slams his bags down on the bed before grabbing his phone and hastily talking into it.

ZACH:

Hello?

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

We see Zach's dad ARTHUR HIGHLANDER (early 50's, beard, reasonably well dressed) sitting on the couch and talking on the phone.

ARTHUR:

Hey son! How're you doing?

INTERCUT - UNIVERSITY DORM ROOM/LIVING ROOM

CONTINUED: 7.

ZACH:

Yeah...umm...pretty well Dad. Did the university call you?

ARTHUR:

No. Why do you ask?

ZACH:

Oh, no reason.

ARTHUR:

Alright. Anyway, your mother and I are planning to head up to the university quite soon.

ZACH:

You can't do that!

ARTHUR:

Why not?

ZACH:

Umm...I'm not at university right now.

ARTHUR:

Alrighty then. Well where are you?

Zach frantically darts his eyes around the room before he sees a large "Manchester United" banner hung up on the wall.

ZACH:

Manchester...

ARTHUR:

Manchester...England?

ZACH:

Yep! Just got a business consulting job last night, and they literally flew me over right then, so I've been here for like 15 minutes.

ARTHUR:

Oh alright...you could have told us before you left, but that's great considering your Aunty Ethel lives in Manchester, England! Hey, I'll give her a call right now!

ZACH:

NO. DON'T.

CONTINUED: 8.

ARTHUR:

Well why not champ?

ZACH:

I'm...not in...that Manchester.

ARTHUR:

What? You mean you're in Manchester, New Hampshire?

ZACH:

YES! Yeeess! Manchester, New Hampshire! I'm staring at the beautiful good ol'...Manchester..skyline here.

ARTHUR:

Right...well looks like we need to visit you there sometime!

ZACH:

What?

ARTHUR:

Yeah you enjoy yourself at your job son! Me and your mother will come up to New Hampshire, and perhaps you can show us around the city, show us around your work. Should be good.

ZACH:

Yeah...it should be...

ARTHUR:

Alright. Leave you to it sport. Talk to you later!

END INTERCUT

Zach stares at his phone before closing it, and putting it back in his pocket. He looks like he's disappointed with himself after lying to his father.

ZACH:

I can't do that...you know what? I need to man up...and I need to do what's right.

CUT TO:

EXT. MANCHESTER SKYLINE - LATE AFTERNOON

Subtitle: "Manchester, New Hampshire"

CONTINUED: 9.

The song, "Please Forgive Me" by David Gray begins to play.

CUT TO:

EXT. MANCHESTER AIRPORT

We see people exiting out the front door, before Zach walks out the front door now also wearing a jacket and his backpack.

ZACH:

And...now I'm broke. Fuck.

CUT TO:

EXT. MANCHESTER STREET

We see Zach just walking down the streets of Manchester - unsure what he's doing. He's just looking down on the pavement until he accidentally bumps into a fairly muscular, African American man. The man is carrying a meal from McDonald's but after the bump, he's dropped it.

MAN:

Hey! You made me drop my meal man!

ZACH:

Woah. Okay I'm sorry man.

MAN:

Well there is a way this can be "fixed". You got any cash on you?

The man leans into Zach, as he looks worried.

ZACH:

Umm...no I don't...

MAN:

Well...

He cracks his knuckles as Zach does a heavily exaggerated gulp.

MAN:

We're gonna have to sort this out some other way...

And just at the very last second, an old station wagon pulls right up beside the two of them. When suddenly the door is swung open by BRAD FAIRBANKS (20, Wavy blonde hair, hippie like attire).

CONTINUED: 10.

BRAD:

Bro! Get in!

Without even thinking about it, Zach nearly DIVES through the front door and slams it close as the station wagon drives off. The man from earlier just looks dejected.

MAN:

(tearing up)

Damn man I was going to ask him out for McDonalds! Why are people so mean sometimes!

His voice starts to crack a bit as he walks off.

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON

Brad is driving whilst Zach is riding shotgun.

BRAD:

So I'm just going to assume that you're new to Manch Vegas?

ZACH:

Manch Vegas?

BRAD:

Hah. That proves it right there man.

ZACH:

Well yeah I am. How did you know?

BRAD:

(very zen)

All of the signs were there man. First of all, you don't know what Manch Vegas is when you're clearly in it. And most importantly, you were on the wrong side of town brah.

ZACH:

Wrong side of town?

BRAD:

Yeah man. Everybody here in Queen City knows that the west side is the wrong side of town. Bad things happen there man. I think I once saw a guy playing Muse! I mean it's (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 11.

BRAD: (cont'd)

like the whole west side has been possessed by the devil!

ZACH:

Just letting you know you don't have to drive so fast. I mean it isn't like we're on a bus, and it's gonna blow up if we go less than 60 miles per hour.

BRAD:

You have to life a little Glenn.

ZACH:

It's Zach.

BRAD:

(ignoring)

Life is so short man. You just gotta take whatever opportunity comes your way, and just ride the fuck out of it man. Ride her like your life depends on it.

ZACH:

Umm...are we still talking about opportunities?

BRAD:

Life is what you want it to be Zane.

ZACH:

Zach...

BRAD:

(ignoring and still zen) Whenever something arises - no matter what the cause man - it doesn't hurt to just grab the chance and live right?

Suddenly Zach smiles - feeling less guilty about what he previously did.

ZACH:

Right.

BRAD:

Sweet man! Pretty much the reason why I just picked you up off the street. I mean you could have (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 12.

BRAD: (cont'd)

mugged me and stabbed me but hey life's life right? You want some hash?

ZACH:

Ummm...I don't do drugs.

BRAD:

Nah man. Hash is my nickname for hash browns. Want some?

He pulls out a greasy, horrid looking thing from the car glovebox.

ZACH:

Ummm no.

BRAD:

Your loss.

He quickly chows it down whilst he drives.

BRAD:

Anyway I'm taking you to the East side of Manch Vegas. Where me and my friends all live. Hey I'll introduce them to you right now! Anyway, you feeling better about moving to Manchester?

Zach smiles even more - feeling even more confident about his decision.

ZACH:

I sure do Brad. Sure do.

CUT TO:

EXT. MANCHESTER STREET - EVENING

The car is pulling off.

BRAD:(O.S.)

Welcome to Manchester, Zeke.

ZACH: (O.S.)

It's Zach.

BRAD: (O.S.)

It's Zach? Well why didn't you say so man!

CUT TO:

CONTINUED: 13.

INT. MIRROR CAFE - EVENING

We see three people seated around a table in the cafe. These three people are CARL PORTLAND (18, Short black hair, sharply dressed), RENEE THOMPSON (20, Long blonde hair, very attractive) and TRINITY HOWARD (23, Long/wavy red hair, cute) discussing with each other.

TRINITY:

So my iPod is just sucking balls at the moment. It's done nothing but played "All About Soul" for the past three hours.

RENEE:

But come on Trinity! It's Billy Joel, the man knows his music. You know I remember back in Albany, my dad got us VIP tickets to see a gig of his at the Times Union Center...

TRINITY:

Yeah Renee, just letting you know you don't have to relate everything to stories to New York.

She puts her hand on Renee's shoulder, whilst looking at her sincerely.

RENEE:

Much like how you relate everything to stories of capital city?

Trinity slowly removes her hand off of her shoulder.

TRINITY:

I stand corrected...

CARL:

Who the hell is Billy Joel?

RENEE:

Oh that's right sweetie, I keep forgetting you're 18.

TRINITY:

You'll find out who he is, once you have your first major and serious break up.

CARL:

Hey! My break up with Ruby Dalton was real!

CONTINUED: 14.

RENEE:

You dated for a month and broke up via Facebook.

CARL:

It was still real to me! You had no idea how hard it was to type those words out!

Suddenly the door swings open at the cafe, and Brad is leading Zach to the table.

BRAD:

People, we have a newcomer. Just arrived in Manch Vegas this afternoon.

CARL/RENEE/TRINITY:

Hey!/Hi!/Hi there!

BRAD:

Alright, let me go around the table.

He gestures towards Carl who gives him a "captains salute".

BRAD:

That is Carl. Small town boy from Winchester, New Hampshire. Poor kid's been fired from every place he's ever worked at.

CARL:

Not every place. I quit once when I punched my boss.

He points to Trinity who waves and smiles.

BRAD:

That is the lovely Trinity. Really sweet girl, although she's not the greatest when it comes to relationships, being dumped by six different dudes.

TRINITY:

Hey!...It was five.

BRAD:

And two of them took place in this cafe. Tough break.

He the finally gestures towards Renee who waves at Zach in an almost flirty way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 15.

BRAD:

And that is Renee. Hailing from the upstate city of Albany, New York she came from a rich family of socialites before she told them to get fucked, then they kicked her out and now she's living in the wonderful city of Manch Vegas.

RENEE:

Just for the record I didn't tell them to get fucked. I said I didn't need their financial support anymore.

BRAD:

Which is rich speak for get fucked. Duh. That's beside the point though, Everyone, this is Zach.

ZACH:

Oh you got my name right this time.

BRAD:

What's that supposed to mean?

ZACH:

Nothing.

TRINITY:

Take a seat Zach! Tell us your story and why you're here in Manchester. We'll get you the standard pear honey tea.

ZACH:

There's a thing called pear honey tea?

RENEE:

Anyway, tell us your story!

ZACH:

Well...

The conversation begins to drown out as "Walk On" by U2 begins to play. After some moments of Zach talking and the rest of the group either laughing, or Renee putting a hand on Zach's shoulder in a sign of pity, he eventually wraps up his entire story.

CONTINUED: 16.

ZACH:

So...now I'm here. And I have nowhere to stay. And on top of that I'm broke.

CARL:

Pfft. So are we.

RENEE:

Haven't had a job for my entire life.

TRINITY:

I don't work.

BRAD:

I don't work too man. Too busy living life. Although I still am excited about writing and playing music for my folk band The Houston Diamond Experiment.

ZACH:

That's your band name? The Houston Diamond Experiment?

BRAD:

Well it was originally...

CARL/RENEE/TRINITY:

(at the same time)
The Houston Diamond Acid Goldmine
Tripping Thrustbend Motherfucker
Archery Boulder Block Road
Experiment.

BRAD:

They know it. But unfortunately I couldn't write that much on a CD, so it's just The Houston Diamond Experiment now.

ZACH:

Ahh right.

BRAD:

So you want a place to crash at man? 'Cos my apartment has a spare room.

ZACH:

You got a spare room?

CONTINUED: 17.

BRAD:

Yeah man - don't need to pay a single cent since you just got here and all. It was originally for our old bass player Spike, but he had to move out, 'cos he got married to some girl in Brazil and lives there now. Room's all yours if you want it man.

ZACH:

Really? Thanks man! Of course I'll take it!

BRAD:

Great! I'll take you there right now!

Zach gets up, and they both turn towards the other three.

BRAD:

See you all tomorrow people. Keep it real!

ZACH:

It was nice meeting you all!

CARL/RENEE/TRINITY:

See ya man!/Bye bye!/Great meeting you!

The two of them walk out.

CUT TO:

EXT. MANCHESTER STREET - NIGHT

We see both Zach and Brad hoping into the station wagon before driving off.

ZACH: (O.S.)

So that Renee girl looks pretty cute.

BRAD: (O.S.)

Unfortunately she's got a boyfriend.

ZACH: (O.S.)

Really!? Damn.

CONTINUED: 18.

BRAD: (O.S.)

Just messing with you man. She's single. Oh yeah just checking for the last time, the name is Jack right?

ZACH: (O.S.)

Dude...

BRAD: (O.S.)

I'm joking. Zach.

The car pulls off and drives into the distance as the song comes to an end.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

We see the man from earlier (the one Zach bumped in onto the street) crying into his phone.

MAN:

(crying)

And then he just got into the car, and they drove away! Why are people so mean!...Well I don't what you'd call someone like that!...Woah that's a little bit harsh mama...No I'll be fine...No mama. I don't even think that the smooth sounds of Frank Ocean can help me out of this one.

The conversation fades out.

FADE OUT

CUT TO:

CLOSING CREDITS

"Walk On" by U2 (from earlier) continues to play during the closing credits.

END OF SHOW